concerns on the need to allow the State Government to give preference to value addition within the state and allow preferential treatment in grant of mineral concessions to PSUs. these issues had been considered and appropriately addressed by the Government before the enunciation of National Mineral Policy, 2008. The Government has approved new National Mineral Policy, 2008 on 13.3.2008. The new National Mineral Policy has been tabled in the Parliament and is available on website of Ministry of Mines (http://mines.nic.in).

(c) to (e) The new National Mineral Policy, 2008, was enunciated after consultations with various stakeholders, including the State Governments. Several suggestion of the chief mineral bearing States on the issue of value addition, exploration over large areas, levying of royalty on ad-valorem basis were considered and appropriately addressed in the new Policy.

Development of areas near mines

4073. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is taking any steps for the development of surrounding areas, close to the mining areas, which would further improve the living conditions of the people living there;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken in the said direction in this regard and the financial allocations made for the purpose and the utilization thereof during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) Mining is an economic activity entailing investment in mining areas which contributes to economic growth and development of surrounding areas also. As per available information, some of the mining companies are contributing for peripheral development around the mining areas, *i.e.* on housing, water supply, health medical facilities and education etc. However, details of contribution made by these companies for peripheral development are not centrally maintained.

Royalty on Minerals

4074. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the State have lost tens of thousands of crores of rupees over the years, due to non-revision and/or delayed revision of the royalty on various minerals, as well as its refusal to consider *ad-valorem* royalty for certain major minerals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would compensate the States for these losses at least for the last 25 years and; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Under Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), royalty rates shall not be enhanced more than once during any period of three years. Royalty rates for major minerals (other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing), which have been fixed on

tonnage/ad valorem basis were last revised on 14.10.2004. At present, State Governments have been charging royalty as per royalty rates notified on 14.10.2004.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Payment of salaries

4075. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that payment of teaching and non-teaching staff of Mossaboni Mines Middle High School and Surda Mines Middle High School of Jharkhand are withheld inspite of the court order; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Navratna status to NALCO

†4076. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that announcements are being made at different places, meetings at annual press conferences and at Consultative Committee meeting to the effect that "National Aluminium Company" (NALCO) would be categorized as Navratna company shortly;

(b) if so, by when such announcements would fully materialise;

(c) the actual reasons for the delays; and

(d) the basis on which the appointment of Director is being considered?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) The Apex Committee in its meeting held on 13.2.2007 had recommended grant of Navratna status to National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) subject to the condition that requisite number of non-official part time (Independent) Directors are appointed on the Board of the Company. The appointment of non-official Directors is carried out as per laid down elaborate procedure, which involves sending a panel of names to the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) for soliciting recommendations of the Search Committee. The names recommended by the Search Committee are sent to Department of Personnel & Training for obtaining approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC). The requisite number of non-official Directors have been appointment on the Board of NALCO vide this Ministry's orders dated 27.9.2007 and 24.4.2008. Matter was thereafter referred to DPE for taking further necessary action in the matter. Formal order conferring Navratna status to NALCO has been issued by DPE on 28th April, 2008.

Mining companies

4077. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the public and private sector mining companies operating in the country, State-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.